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In the Claims

1   **1.**   [Currently Amended]   A method of document management,

2   comprising:

3   providing a document comprising an original document;

4   scanning the document with a scanning machine configured to determine

5   if the original document has a machine-readable code thereon; the scanning

6   machine being further configured to extract at least some information from the

7   machine-readable code if the machine readable code is present on the original

8   document;

9   providing a database of information that can be present in the machine-

10   readable code on the original document, the providing the database of

11   information comprising providing before the scanning; ~~and~~

12   comparing at least some of any information extracted from the machine-

13   readable code by the scanning machine with the information in the database to

14   track the document;

15   <u>determining whether copying of the original document is permitted using</u>

16   <u>information of the comparing; and</u>

17   <u>copying the original document if copying of the original document is</u>

18   <u>permitted responsive to the determining</u>.

1   **2.**   [Original]   The method of claim 1 wherein the providing the

2   document comprises printing the document with a printing device which prints

3   the machine-readable code on the document; and wherein the printing device is

4   in data communication with the database.

1   **3.**   [Original] The method of claim 1 wherein the scanning machine is

2   linked with a copying machine configured for copying the document, wherein

3   the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the document

4   can be copied, and wherein the copier is configured to copy the document

5   unless the scanning machine finds the machine-readable code on the document

6   and extracts information from the machine-readable code not authorizing the

7   copying.

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1   4.   [Original] The method of claim 1 wherein the scanning machine is

2   linked with a copying machine configured for copying the document, wherein

3   the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the document

4   can be copied, and wherein the copier is configured to not copy the document

5   unless the scanning machine finds the machine-readable code on the document

6   and extracts information from the machine-readable code authorizing the

7   copying.

1   5.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 1 wherein the

2   information included in the machine-readable code includes a storage location of

3   a file corresponding to the document.

1   6.   [Currently Amended] A method of automated document tracking,

2   comprising:

3   generating a primary image on a document with either a printer or a first

4   copying machine;

5   printing a machine-readable code on the document as it is generated; the

6   machine-readable code containing information, the printing device being in data

7   communication with a database so that the information printed in machine-

8   readable code on the document is also recorded in the database;

9   scanning the document with a scanning machine configured to determine

10   if the machine readable code is present on the document and further configured

11   to extract at least some of the information from the machine-readable code; ~~and~~

12   comparing the information extracted from the machine-readable code by

13   the scanning machine with the information in the database to track the

14   document; and

15   wherein the machine-readable code is configured such that it will not be

16   fully reproduced on any copies formed by copying the original document with

17   the second copying machine.

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1   7.   [Original] The method of claim 6 wherein the scanning machine is
2   linked with a second copying machine configured for copying the document,
3   wherein the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the
4   document can be copied, and wherein the second copying machine is configured
5   to copy the document unless the scanning machine finds machine-readable code
6   on the document and extracts information from the machine-readable code not
7   authorizing the copying.

1   8.   [Original] The method of claim 6 wherein the scanning machine is
2   linked with a second copying machine configured for copying the document,
3   wherein the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the
4   document can be copied, and wherein the second copying machine is configured
5   to not copy the document unless the scanning machine finds the machine-
6   readable code on the document and extracts information from machine-readable
7   code authorizing the copying.

1   9.   [Canceled].

1   10.   [Currently Amended] The method of claim [[9]] 6 wherein the
2   machine-readable code is printed with at least one of a resolution or tonal
3   difference that cannot be reproduced by the second copying machine.

1   11.   [Currently Amended] The method of claim [[9]] 6 wherein the
2   machine-readable code is printed with an ink that is not visible when viewed
3   with only light in the visible wavelength range, said ink becoming visible when
4   stimulated with light outside of the visible wavelength range.

1   12.   [Original] The method of claim 8 wherein the machine-readable
2   code is configured such that it is reproduced on copies formed by copying the
3   original document with the second copying machine.

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1   13.   [Original]   The method of claim 8 wherein the second copying
2   machine is configured with a second printing device that prints a new machine-
3   readable code on any copies formed from the document.

1   14.   [Original]   The method of claim 8 wherein the document is
2   generated with the first copying machine, and wherein the second copying
3   machine and the first copying machine are the same copying machine.

1   15.   [Original]   The method of claim 8 wherein the second copying
2   machine is configured to identify a user requesting a copy of the document,
3   wherein the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the
4   document can be copied by particular users, and wherein the second copying
5   machine is configured to not copy the document unless the scanning machine
6   finds the machine-readable code and extracts information from the machine-
7   readable code authorizing the copying by the user identified by the second
8   copying machine as requesting a copy of the original document..

Claims 16-20 [canceled].

1   21.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 1 wherein the
2   information contained in the machine-readable code defines a version of the
3   document and the scanning comprises scanning a scanned version of the
4   document, and further comprising:
5   storing a digital representation of the scanned version of the document
6   together with digital representations of other versions of the document using the
7   database; and
8   determining that the digital representations of the other versions of the
9   document are in the database.

1   22.   [Previously Presented]   The method of claim 1 wherein the
2   providing the original document comprises providing the document comprising a
3   hard image formed for the first time on physical output media.